

From: Miles C
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 3:26pm
Subject: opposed to settlement

From what I have read in the majority of trade publications is that the consensus is that this is not a settlement that will significantly benefit anyone other than Microsoft.

I hope that 9 states pursuing a separate path is enough to at least give whomever might be in charge of this case that it this case is strongly questionable. I would put forth the suggestion that attorney generals in 9 states are also experts in the matters of law, so even though 9 states have gone along with it the matter has some serious issues.

As near as I can tell, Microsoft is and will remain a monopoly. They make the rules for their OS. They will also use unfairly their considerable resources to enter in and dominate any aspect of the software industry because there does not exist another corporation who can print money like they can. The idea of leveraging a monopoly is something that I don't think was adequately explored.

I think that they have adopted the old Royal philosophy of don't explain and don't apologize as much as possible. It works, most people will go away if you deny anything long enough. They have added to it with significant amounts of money in contributions making the party line that much more difficult to dispute.

At this juncture, they seem to be trying to make new inroads into people's lives such that they will control large portions of commerce with the Internet by holding much of the information used for marketing and purchasing. If the Department of Justice can have its case split so cleanly at this juncture how much less of a chance will there be an answer in the future when no doubt the political pressure will likely be even greater because of greater profit?

I truly doubt that they are significantly changed from their earlier tactics simply because those tactics worked and now no longer are necessary rather than they are facing any punitive measures. There will remain the fact that no one can develop for their platform as easily as they can. They have the source code and expertise in developing it that automatically gives them an advantage in experience.

I honestly feel as though I was sold out as a consumer. I don't doubt that any company that is developing in a field that MS looks at as potentially profitable feels even worse knowing that they will be acquired or destroyed as a force in that market through no special ability of MS other than not having that market niche fund its development. Office will help pay for Money, which will help pay for Age of Empires, for instance.

Please reconsider this settlement. I truly believe that a diversified software industry will be much better for us than a gigantic corporation kept healthy through government intervention on its behalf.

Sincerely, Miles Cannon

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